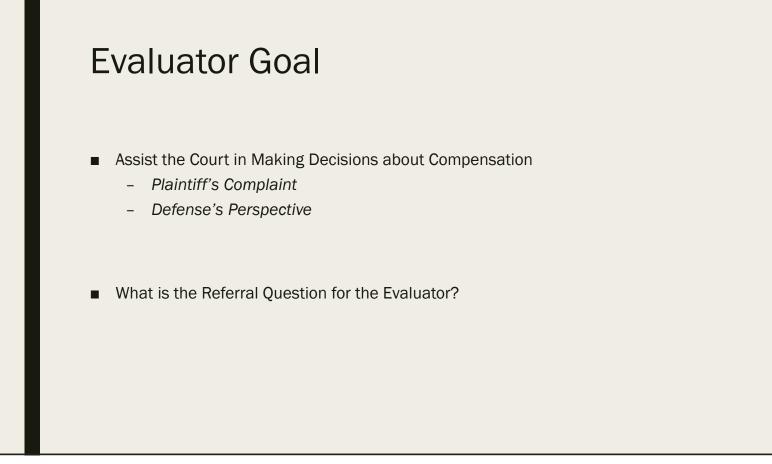
MENTAL ANGUISH AND TRAUMA ASSESSMENT IN PERSONAL INJURY CASES

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Texas Trial Lawyers Association Car Crash Seminar



TORTS

- Was there a breach of duty?
- What are the legally recognized damages?
- Is there a mental health disorder diagnosed?
- Was this caused by the event?
- What are the resulting damages
 - Nature, Duration, Severity

What are Emotional Damages?

- Is there a mental disorder?
- What are the associated impairments?
- Describe: nature and impact of the symptoms
- Describe: findings

Multisource & Multimethod

Ways to Assess for Convergent Validity:

- Clinical Interviews, Structured Interviews, Standardized Interviews
- Collateral Informants (spouse/partner, co-workers/peers, family members, etc.)
- Collateral Document Review: Relevant psychological, medical, academic, criminal, job history
- Observations
- Psychological Assessments

Convergent Validity The degree to which independent sources of information converge on or point to the same conclusion Direct relationship between the number of independent data sources converging on the same conclusion and the <u>confidence</u> in that conclusion As a general rule, the more data an examiner has and the greater the variety of sources of that data, the more reliable the conclusion based on that data The nature and source of that data should be considered, with some types of data assigned greater weight (meaning) than others

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Title search: Mental Anguish and Trauma Assessment in Personal Injury Cases

Also available as part of the eCourse <u>Answer Bar: Taking Your Car Crash Case to Trial</u>

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